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SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

AERIAL ENGINEERING¹

THE attention of the section was directed to aeronautics as long ago as 1886, when my distinguished predecessor, Octave Chanute, in his address at Buffalo, mentioned the possibilities of aerial navigation, a subject which entirely absorbed his later years and which he lived to see completely realized. Again in 1904, Professor C. M. Woodward devoted a portion of his vice-presidential address at Philadelphia to a consideration of the navigation of the air, which at that time had been accomplished with dirigible balloons. Papers on aeronautical subjects, or relating thereto, have been presented in increasing numbers to the section, reaching a maximum of eleven in 1909. Last year, the writer, as chairman of the section, made a special effort to secure such papers through a preliminary circular, thus worded:

The rapid advance in the navigation of the air during the past year has attracted serious attention to scientific aeronautics. The construction of dirigible balloons and flying machines is essentially a mechanical problem and as such merits consideration by this section, especially since no engineering society has yet taken this action. Accordingly papers are invited relating to aerodynamics and other branches of aeronautics and also discussing possible courses of instruction in colleges and technical schools.

As a result ten papers were presented and an aeronautical curriculum was for the first time discussed here.

The subject of this address, "Aerial

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section D—Mechanical Science and Engineering. Washington, 1911.